

## CLAIMS

1. In a wireless communication system, a method for preparing data for  
 2 transmission on a plurality of transmission channels, wherein each  
 transmission channel is operative to transmit a respective sequence of  
 4 modulation symbols, the method comprising:

6 determining a number of information bits per modulation symbol  
 supported by each transmission channel;

8 identifying a modulation scheme for each transmission channel such that  
 the determined number of information bits per modulation symbol is  
 supported;

10 determining a coding rate for each transmission channel based at least  
 on the determined number of information bits per modulation symbol and the  
 12 identified modulation scheme for the transmission channel, wherein at least  
 two transmission channels are associated with different coding rates;

14 encoding a plurality of information bits in accordance with a particular  
 encoding scheme to provide a plurality of coded bits;

16 puncturing the plurality of coded bits in accordance with a particular  
 puncturing scheme to provide a number of unpunctured coded bits for the  
 18 plurality of transmission channels; and

20 adjusting the puncturing to achieve the different coding rates for the at  
 least two transmission channels.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication system is  
 2 a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) system with a plurality of transmit  
 antennas and a plurality of receive antennas.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication system is  
 2 an orthogonal frequency division modulation (OFDM) communication system.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the OFDM communication system is  
 2 operated as a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) system with a plurality  
 of transmit antennas and a plurality of receive antennas.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the OFDM system is operative to  
 2 transmit data on a plurality of frequency subchannels, and wherein each  
 transmission channel corresponds to a spatial subchannel of a frequency  
 4 subchannel in the OFDM system.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the puncturing is based on  
2 transmission capabilities of the plurality of transmission channels.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the transmission capabilities are  
2 determined from channel state information (CSI) derived for the plurality of  
transmission channels.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the CSI includes signal-to-noise ratio  
2 (SNR) information for the plurality of transmission channels.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the CSI includes information related  
2 to transmission characteristics from transmit antennas to the receive antennas.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the CSI includes eigenmode  
2 information related to transmission characteristics from transmit antennas to  
the receive antennas.

11. The method of claim 6, further comprising:  
2 grouping transmission channels having similar transmission capabilities  
to segments, and  
4 wherein the puncturing is performed for each segment.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
2 assigning a group of coded bits to each segment, and  
wherein the puncturing is performed on the group of coded bits  
4 assigned to each segment.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein each segment includes  
2 transmission channels having SNR within a particular SNR range.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the encoding is achieved via a Turbo  
2 code.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the encoding provides a plurality  
2 of tail and parity bits for the plurality of information bits, and wherein the  
puncturing is performed on the plurality of tail and parity bits.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the puncturing is performed such  
2 that unpunctured tail and parity bits are approximately evenly distributed over  
the plurality of information bits.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the Turbo code includes two  
2 constituent codes operative to provide two streams of tail and parity bits, and  
wherein the puncturing is performed such that approximately equal number of  
4 tail and parity bits are deleted from the two streams of tail and parity bits.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the coding rate for each  
2 transmission channel is selected to be between, and inclusive of,  $n/(n+1)$  and  
 $n/(n+2)$ , where  $n$  is the number of information bits per modulation symbol  
4 supported by the transmission channel.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the coding rate for each  
2 transmission channel is  $1/2$  or higher.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the encoding is achieved via a  
2 convolutional code.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the encoding is achieved via a block  
2 code.

22. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 inserting padding bits to fill available but unfilled bit positions in the  
plurality of transmission channels.

23. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 repeating at least some of the coded bits to fill available but unfilled bit  
positions in the plurality of transmission channels.

24. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 interleaving the plurality of coded bits.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the puncturing is performed on  
2 interleaved coded bits.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the encoding is achieved via a  
2 Turbo code comprised of two constituent codes, and wherein the plurality of

information bits, a plurality of tail and parity bits from a first constituent code,  
4 and a plurality of tail and parity bits from a second constituent code are  
separately interleaved.

27. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 forming non-binary symbols for the plurality of transmission channels,  
wherein each non-binary symbol includes a group of unpunctured coded bits;  
4 and  
mapping each non-binary symbol to a respective modulation symbol.

28. The method of claim 27, further comprising:  
2 interleaving the plurality of coded bits, and  
wherein the non-binary symbols are formed from the interleaved coded  
4 bits.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the modulation scheme for each  
2 transmission channel is associated with a respective signal constellation having  
a plurality of points, and wherein each modulation symbol is representative of  
4 a particular point in the signal constellation for the modulation scheme.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the plurality of points in each  
2 signal constellation are assigned with values based on a particular Gray  
mapping scheme.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the values are assigned to the  
2 plurality of points in each signal constellation such that values for adjacent  
points in the signal constellation differ by one bit position.

32. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 adapting to changes in the plurality of transmission channels by  
repeating the determining the number of information bits per modulation  
4 symbol, the identifying the modulation scheme, and the determining the  
coding rate.

33. The method of claim 1, wherein the modulation scheme for each  
2 transmission channel supports transmission of two or more coded bits per  
modulation symbol.

34. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission on the plurality of  
2 transmission channels are intended for a single recipient receiving device.

35. In an orthogonal frequency division modulation (OFDM)  
2 communication system, a method for preparing data for transmission on a  
plurality of transmission channels, wherein each transmission channel is  
4 operative to transmit a respective sequence of modulation symbols, the method  
comprising:

6 determining a number of information bits per modulation symbol  
supported by each transmission channel;

8 identifying a modulation scheme for each transmission channel such that  
the determined number of information bits per modulation symbol is  
10 supported;

determining a coding rate for each transmission channel based at least  
12 on the determined number of information bits per modulation symbol and the  
identified modulation scheme for the transmission channel, wherein at least  
14 two transmission channels are associated with different coding rates;

encoding a plurality of information bits in accordance with a particular  
16 Turbo code to provide a plurality of tail and parity bits;

interleaving the plurality of information and tail and parity bits in  
18 accordance with a particular interleaving scheme;

puncturing the plurality of interleaved bits in accordance with a  
20 particular puncturing scheme to provide a number of unpunctured coded bits  
for the plurality of transmission channels, wherein the puncturing is adjusted to  
22 achieve the different coding rates for the at least two transmission channels;

forming non-binary symbols for the plurality of transmission channels,  
24 wherein each non-binary symbol includes a group of unpunctured coded bits;  
and

26 mapping each non-binary symbol to a respective modulation symbol.

36. A wireless communication system operative to transmit data on a  
2 plurality of transmission channels, wherein each transmission channel is used  
to transmit a respective sequence of modulation symbols, the system  
4 comprising:

an encoder configured to encode a plurality of information bits in  
6 accordance with a particular encoding scheme to provide a plurality of coded  
bits, and to puncture the plurality of coded bits in accordance with a particular  
8 puncturing scheme to provide a number of unpunctured coded bits for the  
plurality of transmission channels, wherein each transmission channel is

10 capable of transmitting a particular number of information bits per modulation  
12 symbol via a particular modulation scheme selected for the transmission  
14 channel, wherein each transmission channel is further associated with a  
16 particular coding rate based at least on the number of information bits per  
18 modulation symbol supported by the transmission channel and its modulation  
scheme, wherein at least two transmission channels are associated with  
different coding rates, and wherein the encoder is further configured to adjust  
the puncturing to achieve the different coding rates for the at least two  
transmission channels.

37. The system of claim 36, further comprising:

2 a channel interleaver coupled to the encoder and configured to  
interleave the plurality of coded bits, and  
4 wherein the encoder is configured to puncture the interleaved bits.

38. The system of claim 37, further comprising:

2 a symbol mapping element coupled to the channel interleaver and  
configured to form non-binary symbols for the plurality of transmission  
4 channels, and to map each non-binary symbol to a respective modulation  
symbol, wherein each non-binary symbol includes a group of unpunctured  
6 coded bits.

39. The system of claim 38, further comprising:

2 a signal processor coupled to the symbol mapping element and  
configured to pre-condition the modulation symbols for the plurality of  
4 transmission channels to implement a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO)  
transmission.